

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A dicing saw blade retention assembly, comprising:
a shaped flange including a substantially radially extending support member ~~that extends substantially radially and a substantially axially extending~~ spacer member ~~that extends substantially axially~~ for spacing an adjacent radially extending surface of said the support member a fixed distance apart from an axially adjacent member element;
a retention element positioned on said the spacer member of the shaped flange;
a dicing saw blade positioned on said the spacer member of the shaped flange, between said the support member of the shaped flange and said the retention element; and
at least one biasing element located adjacent said the retention element, opposite said the dicing saw blade to bias said the retention element against said the dicing saw blade.

2. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein said the axially adjacent member comprises an axial spacer.

3. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 2, further comprising:
at least one additional shaped flange positioned axially adjacent to said the axial spacer, opposite said the shaped flange;
at least one additional retention member positioned on a spacer member of said the at least one additional shaped flange;
at least one additional saw blade positioned between said the at least one additional retention member and a support member of said the at least one additional shaped flange; and

at least another biasing element located adjacent saidthe at least one additional retention element, opposite saidthe at least one additional saw blade to bias saidthe at least one additional retention member against saidthe at least one additional saw blade.

4. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein saidthe axially adjacent member comprises another shaped flange.

5. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, wherein saidthe shaped flange and saidthe another shaped flange are oriented in opposite directions.

6. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, further comprising:

another retention element positioned on a spacer member of saidthe another shaped flange; another dicing saw blade positioned between saidthe another retention element and a support member of saidthe another shaped flange, saidthe at least one biasing element being positioned between saidthe retention element and saidthe another retention element to bias saidthe retention element against saidthe dicing saw blade and saidthe another retention element against saidthe another dicing saw blade.

7. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, wherein saidthe shaped flange and saidthe another shaped flange are oriented in the same direction.

8. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 7, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element is positioned between a support member of saidthe another shaped flange and saidthe retention element.

9. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 8, further comprising:

another axially adjacent member positioned adjacent to a spacer member of saidthe another shaped flange;

another retention element positioned on saidthe spacer member of saidthe another shaped flange; another dicing saw blade positioned between saidthe another retention element and saidthe

support member of saidthe another shaped flange; and

at least one other biasing element positioned between saidthe another axially adjacent member and saidthe another retention element, opposite saidthe another dicing saw blade to bias saidthe another retention element against saidthe another dicing saw blade.

10. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein an aperture formed centrally through saidthe retention element receives saidthe spacer member of saidthe shaped flange.

11. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element comprises a compressible, resilient structure.

12. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element comprises an o-ring.

13. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element comprises a spring.

14. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, comprising a plurality of biasing elements arranged radially relative to saidthe retention element.

15. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a retention feature on at least one of saidthe retention element and a surface of saidthe support member of saidthe shaped flange located opposite saidthe spacer member thereof.

16. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 15, wherein saidthe retention feature comprises at least one recess configured to receive at least a portion of saidthe at least one biasing element and to facilitate compression thereof.

17. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 16, wherein saidthe at least one recess is configured to limit compression of saidthe at least one biasing element.

18. (Currently amended) A ganged dicing saw, comprising:

at least two shaped flanges, each shaped flange including a support member that extends substantially radially and a spacer member that extends substantially axially for at least partially spacing an adjacent radially extending surface of saidthe support member of one of saidthe at least two shaped flanges a fixed distance apart from a corresponding radially extending surface of saidthe support member of another of saidthe at least two shaped flanges;

at least two retention elements, each retention element positioned on saidthe spacer member of a corresponding shaped flange of saidthe at least two shaped flanges;

at least two dicing saw blades, each saw blade positioned on saidthe spacer member of one of saidthe at least two shaped flanges, between saidthe support member and saidthe retention element of saidthe corresponding shaped flange; and

at least one biasing element located adjacent at least one retention element of saidthe at least two retention elements, opposite one dicing saw blade of saidthe at least two dicing saw blades to bias saidthe at least one retention element against saidthe one dicing saw blade.

19. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, further comprising:

an axial spacer positioned axially between saidthe at least two shaped flanges.

20. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein saidthe at least two shaped flanges are oriented in opposite directions.

21. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 20, wherein saidthe spacer members of saidthe at least two shaped flanges extend toward one another.

22. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 21, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element is positioned between adjacent ones of saidthe at least two retention elements.

23. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein saidthe at least two shaped flanges are oriented in the same direction.

24. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 23, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element is positioned between a support member of one of saidthe at least two shaped flanges and a retention element that corresponds to another of saidthe at least two shaped flanges.

25. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein an aperture formed centrally through each of saidthe at least two retention elements receives saidthe spacer members of saidthe corresponding shaped flange.

26. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element comprises a compressible, resilient structure.

27. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element comprises an o-ring.

28. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, wherein saidthe at least one biasing element comprises a spring.

29. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, comprising a plurality of biasing elements arranged radially relative to each of saidthe at least two retention elements.

30. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, further comprising retention features on at least one of saidthe at least two retention elements and a surface of saidthe support members of saidthe at least two shaped flanges located opposite saidthe spacer members thereof.

31. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 30, wherein saidthe retention features each comprise at least one recess configured to receive at least a portion of saidthe at least one biasing element and to facilitate compression thereof.

32. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 31, wherein saidthe at least one recess is configured to limit compression of saidthe at least one biasing element.

33. (Currently amended) A method for fixing distances between ganged saw blades, comprising:

assembling at least two shaped flanges onto a spindle of a ganged dicing saw, each shaped flange including a spacer member that extends substantially axially relative to saidthe spindle and a support member that extends substantially radially relative to saidthe spindle; placing a dicing saw blade onto saidthe spacer member of each shaped flange; placing a retaining element onto saidthe spacer member of each shaped flange, saidthe dicing saw blade being positioned between saidthe retaining element and saidthe spacer member; positioning at least one biasing element adjacent at least one retaining element, opposite a corresponding dicing saw blade; forcing saidthe at least two shaped flanges axially toward one another along saidthe spindle, a distance between support members of saidthe at least two shaped flanges being at least partially defined by saidthe at least two shaped flanges, saidthe forcing at least partially compressing saidthe at least one biasing element to bias saidthe at least one retaining element against saidthe corresponding dicing saw blade and securing saidthe corresponding dicing saw blade between saidthe at least one retaining element and saidthe corresponding dicing saw blade; and securing at least saidthe at least two shaped flanges into position along saidthe spindle.

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34. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said assembling comprises assembling saidthe at least two shaped flanges in opposite orientations.

35. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said assembling comprises assembling saidthe at least two shaped flanges in opposite orientations with saidthe spacer members facing one another.

36. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein said positioning comprises positioning saidthe at least one biasing element between retaining elements on spacer members of saidthe at least two shaped flanges.

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37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein ~~said~~ assembling comprises assembling ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges in the same orientation.